

February 13, 2007

Chairman Vicki Cocchiarella  
Business, Labor and Economic Affairs

Madam Chair and Distinguished Committee Members,

I regret not being able to attend this hearing on HB 333 to present our request for this legislation in person. Due to much needed moisture in Southeastern Montana many of us are snowed in.

The board of governors of Miles City Bucking horse Sale Incorporated is requesting this legislation to provide us with another revenue stream at our event. As you may or may not know insurance for jockeys of horse racing has gone sky high. The board is looking for more ways to get revenue to off set this cost. By allowing us to pari mutual the match bronc ride and the wild horse race, we would be able to gain some added revenue. It will not be a large sum but it all adds up. We already have horse racing and a pari mutual system on the grounds so it would not be an added cost to our event. Because of the cost of having a pari mutual system in place, this legislation is probably pretty exclusive to the bucking horse sale event in Miles City. The World Famous Miles City Bucking Horse Sale is a major event for the state of Montana, Southeastern Montana, Custer County and Miles City. We have had visitors from all over the world at our event and it brings a lot of people from outside the state to Montana. This legislation will help us continue to have the event. It is not a cure all to the problems we have with horse racing but does help in the fight to overcome the problems.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation and I hope you see it fit to pass HB 333 on to the next level. Your support for this legislation will continue to help Montana and especially Southeastern Montana.

Yours truly,

Don Richard  
President  
Miles City Bucking Horse Sale Board of Governors.